

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 7, line 12 to Page 8, line 12, substitute the following paragraph:

Namely, in the present invention according to the first to third aspects, HC and CO discharged in the rich mixture operation is purified by oxygen discharged in the lean mixture operation, and the exhaust temperature will not be lowered since rich mixture operation is performed. Also, even when the catalytic converter temperature is low and thus the reaction amount of the catalytic converter is small, discharge of HC and CO to the atmosphere without reaction can be successfully prevented. Also, when the temperature of the catalytic converter is high and thus HC and CO react, the temperature of the catalytic converter can be further elevated. In the fourth aspect of the present invention, utilizing heat (reaction heat) generated by reaction of CO on the catalytic converter, temperature of the catalytic converter can be elevated. Sixth to eighth aspects of the invention, since compensate torque compensation by the ignition timing control is not required. By auxiliary injection, even when temperature of the exhaust gas and the catalytic converter is low and reaction amount of the catalytic converter is small, discharge of HC and CO to the atmosphere without reaction can be successfully prevented. Also, when the temperature of the catalytic converter is high and thus HC and CO react, the temperature of the catalytic converter can be further elevated. In the ninth aspect of the invention, the catalytic converter can be activated by burring burning HC in the catalytic converter.